

FBIHQ FILE

100-12304

SECTION: 15

PAUL ROBESON, SR.

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 1/31/58

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
 FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)
 SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
 IS-C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 [signature]

REASON FOR

DATE OF REVIEW

Mr. Tolson ✓
 Mr. Boardman ✓
 Mr. Belmont ✓
 Mr. Mohr ✓
 Mr. Nease ✓
 Mr. Parsons ✓
 Mr. Rosen ✓
 Mr. Tamm ✓
 Mr. Trotter ✓
 Mr. Clayton ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Mr. Holloman ✓
 Miss Gandy ✓

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INS records, NYC, reflect TAMARA Y. MAMEDOVA as the wife of ENVER N. MAMEDOV, chief editor of "USSR" magazine attached to staff of Soviet Embassy, Washington, D.C. (u)

Classified by 2650 N/R
 Exempt from GDS, Category 243
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

- (3) - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
 1 - San Francisco (100-6907) (INFO) (RM) (AM) MAY 23 1977
 1 - Washington Field (105- [REDACTED]) (RM) (INFO)
 1 - New York (65-14825 Sub B)
 1 - New York (105-9995)
 1 - New York (105-21173)
 1 - New York (100-56680)
 1 - New York (100-25857)

COPIES DESTROYED 5-1-57

REC-70

JGD:axm #17
 (11)

cc - RACHWA

Approved: Edward J. Powers
 Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
 AND FIELD OFFICES
 ADVISED BY ROUTING
 SLIP(S) OF
 DATE

100-12304-445
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

SUBV CONTROL

F B I

Date: _____

Transmit the following message via _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

LEONID G. VELICHANSKY, according to INS records,
is "Tass" correspondent in NY. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

Copy of instant communication is being furnished
the San Francisco Division inasmuch as subject reportedly is
presently in that division. (u)

[REDACTED] (u) (c)

Information from this source, if used in a report,
must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the
source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any
unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of
the above information. (u)

Submitted for informatin. (u)

POWERS.

- 2 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent In Charge ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC *New York* (Your file *100-25257*) DATE: *2/9*FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and serial *100-12304-445*)SUBJECT: *Paul Leroy Robinson* Office of Origin: *N.Y.*

1. () The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to submit a report immediately. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No. Room 1260

Report submitted _____

Report will be submitted *by 3/20/58*

Reason for delay _____

ALL INFORMATION
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *12/31/80*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1958	
FBI - NEW YORK	

2. (✓) Advise Bureau re status of this case.
3. (✓) Advise Bureau when report may be expected.
4. () Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1954 - O-577806

1 - Mr. Nease
1 - Mr. Thornton
1 - Mr. Kitchens

SAC, New York (100-4931)

February 6, 1958

Director, FBI (100-3-4)

COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reurlet dated 1-22-58.

Authority is granted to recontact [redacted] in an effort to resolve the identity of the prominent Communist Party member, who according to [redacted] is contemplating defecting from the Communist Party.

This interview must be handled in a discreet manner to preclude the possibility of causing embarrassment to the Bureau.

Promptly advise the Bureau of all developments in this matter.

1 - New York (100-25857)

1 - Bufile (100-393216) [redacted]
1 - Bufile (100-12304) (Paul Robeson)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

During the course of another investigation,

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that a woman described by him as being a former member of the Communist Party (CP) who has testified before Congressional committees handling CP activities had informed him that a very prominent CP member was contemplating defecting from the CP. He advised that according to the information one of the big deterrents was that the individual might be subpoenaed by some Congressional group in an effort to make that person tell all he knew about CP activities.

[redacted] He said that he would do every thing in his power to persuade the individual to defect and he would then, if he could convince the individual to do so, make arrangements for FBI Agents to interview him. [redacted] refused to divulge either the source of the information or the identity of the CP member. By letter dated 11-26-57 Bureau requested New York to consider possibility [redacted] source was [redacted] and that Paul Robeson or [redacted]

Continued page 2

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

TWK:ark

(9)
76 FEB 17 1958

ALL INFORMATION
HEREIN IS
DATE 12/31/50

NOT RECORDED
164 FEB 13 1958

SP-5 R/S/llm

4

Letter to New York
Re: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
100-3-4

NOTE ON YELLOW CONTINUED:

individual contemplating defecting. By letter dated 12-13-57 New York furnished information indicating Robeson may have disengaged himself from CP and could be the individual [REDACTED] was referring. By letter dated 12-16-57 Bureau requested New York to remain alert for additional information indicating that Robeson is contemplating defecting from CP. New York was also instructed to consider requesting Bureau authority to reinterview [REDACTED] if he had not contacted New York Office within 45 days. New York has requested such authority and advises that the Agent who originally contacted [REDACTED] will conduct the interview if Bureau authority granted. [REDACTED] has been cooperative with Bureau in the past and it does not appear that above interview would cause any embarrassment to Bureau.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *1/2/58*

DATE: February 11, 1958

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT *AWB*SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

- 1 - Mr. Boardman
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Nease
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Central Research
- 1 - Mr. Thornton
- 1 - Mr. Kleinkauf
- 1 - Mr. Rachner

AWB
 Boardman ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☐
 Parsons ☐
 Rosen ☐
 Tamm ☐
 Trotter ☐
 Nease ☐
 Tele. Room ☐
 Holloman ☐
 Gandy ☐

SYNOPSIS:

Robeson is controversial Negro concert singer who has consistently supported communist and related front causes and has been outspoken in praise of Russia. He recently wrote and published book entitled "Here I Stand," which purports to explain his dedication to winning freedom for Negro, the meaning of fight for Negro freedom, and means of obtaining such freedom. In dealing with question he seeks to explain his political stand. He charges controversy concerning him originated with "Big White Folks," his persecutors and real "Un-Americans." He explains sentiment for Soviet Union and Afro-Asian nations stems from their support of colonial liberation movement and their views against racial discrimination. He denies any connection with "international conspiracy" (makes no denial of connection with Communist Party (CP)); admits association with nonconformists and radicals; and criticizes Government for refusing him passport. He denounces segregation and its advocates and proposes coordinated mass Negro action through effective leadership to fight for Negro freedom. He makes no reference to FBI and content of book provides no new intelligence data to Bureau.

BACKGROUND:

Robeson is noted Negro concert singer who has long been controversial figure due to his consistent support of communist and related front causes and his outspoken praise of Soviet Union. He was chairman of Council on African Affairs (cited by Attorney General) until its dissolution in 1955. State Department has refused Robeson passport since 1950 for failure to answer questions concerning CP membership; however, State Department has recently lifted ban on travel by Robeson to countries in Western Hemisphere where passport is not generally required. Robeson, his wife, and his son are current Security Index subjects of New York Office. His son, Paul, Jr., was recently elected to the New York State Communist Party Board.

Robeson authored book "Here I Stand" published February 3, 1958. He states he was assisted by noted Negro writer, Lloyd L. Brown, who is believed identical with Lloyd Louis Brown, a current member of

100-12304

BCR:aym
(9)

EX - 131

REC-33
 100-12304-446
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 12/31/80 BY SP-5/54

Memorandum to Mr. Boardman
Re: Paul Leroy Robeson
100-12304

the CP National Committee [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED] The book was published by Othello Associates (apparently affiliated with Othello Recording Company, a company controlled by Robeson in handling of his recordings), and available to date only in Jefferson Book Shop, New York City, which deals in communist and front group literature.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

Robeson emphasizes his dedication to winning freedom of Negro and explains purpose of book to discuss meaning of fight for Negro freedom and means of securing such freedom. In so doing, he seeks to explain his current political viewpoint in an effort to set the record straight.

Robeson claims current controversy concerning him originated with "Big White Folks" who he describes as his persecutors and real "Un-Americans." He shows contempt for these people and in turn expresses concern for the Negro as well as the common people, i.e. working class, foreign born, nationality groups, Jewish people, middle class progressives, and people in arts and sciences.

Robeson emphasizes his basic views have not changed for years. He claims he voiced friendly sentiment for Soviet Union and Afro-Asian nations several years ago and has seen no reason to change his views in face of a cold war and "McCarthyism." He alleges his sentiment for Soviet Union and Afro-Asian nations is founded in their support of "colonial liberation movement" as well as their support of the Negro people throughout the world. He claims the Soviet Union in world affair has been an important factor in this regard and cites as an example how the Soviet Union blocked "Western Imperialists" from retaking the Suez Canal from Egypt. Robeson charges that his warm feeling for the Soviet Union has, according to Washington officials, made him a part of an "international conspiracy." He emphatically denies ever having been a part of an "international conspiracy" or knowing anyone who is. (At no time does Robeson deny present or past CP membership). He claims his refusal to testify before legislative committees is based upon the unconstitutional nature of committee inquiries. He describes the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) as the "Un-American Committee."

Memorandum to Mr. Boardman
Re: Paul Leroy Robeson
100-12304

With reference to his passport case, he charges that State Department's refusal to grant him a passport is arbitrary. He claims there is no evidence to support Government charges and alleges his passport refusal is based upon his concern for Negro rights. In general, he attempts to put across point that his support of Soviet Union and Afro-Asian policy concerning colonial liberation movement and racial equality has been misinterpreted as Un-American activity. He frequently criticizes the State Department and United States Government concerning both domestic and foreign policy in this regard. He continuously emphasizes the alleged lack of racial discrimination in European and Asian countries as contrasted to the United States.

At one point Robeson expresses his conviction in scientific socialism as an advancement to a higher stage of life and as being superior to "capitalistic imperialism." He does not elaborate further on this matter; however, he does comment at one point about the "new China" (Red China) in a favorable light and also emphasizes that the "communists of the world denounce racism."

Robeson admits he has never hesitated to associate with nonconformists and radicals, and in this regard points out his long association with Ben Davis, current national CP functionary. He points out the mutual interest of himself and Davis in regard to the fight for Negro freedom. He goes on to describe the Smith Act convictions as unconstitutional and likewise denounces the Walter-McCarran Act.

The majority of Robeson's comments deal with his views concerning Negro inequality in the United States. He denounces segregation and its advocates. He proposes coordinated mass Negro action built around strong Negro leadership to cope with the current crisis. He suggests a central fund, concerted Negro support of already existent organizations such as National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the exertion of influence of the Negro in labor unions.

In concluding, Robeson compliments the Soviet Union on the launching of the Sputnik and describes it as a step toward world peace.

Memorandum to Mr. Boardman
Re: Paul Leroy Robeson
100-12304

OBSERVATIONS:

Robeson's book appears to be directed to the Negro reader for whom it will undoubtedly have appeal. He attempts to analyze the world racial situation from the standpoint of the Negro and apparently attempts to incite the Negro into a form of concerted action for the purpose of fighting for Negro equality. It would appear, however, that Robeson's attempts to explain and justify his political views, as related to his discussion of the racial question, is obviously an attempt to influence public opinion in the United States and abroad to his favor for the purpose of influencing the State Department to issue him a passport. It is noteworthy that Robeson evades any specific reference to the CP, USA, and fails to provide any argument regarding his alleged support of CP, USA, and front group causes other than his previous association with the Council on African Affairs.

It is noted that Robeson's book contains no reference to the FBI and likewise contains no new information of intelligence value to Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

10/18 PR [signature] [signature] [signature] ✓
ms [signature] gn [signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reporting Office LOS ANGELES	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 2/17/58	Investigative Period 10/21; 11/1, 8, 26; 12/12/57; 1/3, 16, 24, 30; 2/7/58
TITLE OF CASE PAUL LEROY ROBESON, W.A.		Report made by [REDACTED]	Typed By: DLR
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	
		CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/BJN	
		REASON-FCIM II 1-2.4.2-2	
		DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90	

Synopsis:

PAUL ROBESON arrived in Los Angeles, California on 10/25/57 and departed from Los Angeles on 11/6 or 7/57. He was guest artist at Los Angeles Committee for Protection of Foreign Born affair on 10/26/57. While in Los Angeles ROBESON visited with SHIRLEY TAYLOR and WILLIAM COTTLE TAYLOR, members of the Communist Party in the Los Angeles area.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY **2650 YER**

MAY 23 1977

DETAILS:

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PAUL ROBESON arrived in Los Angeles, California via American Airlines at International Airport, Los Angeles, on October 25, 1957. While in Los Angeles ROBESON stayed at the residence of FRANKIE SIMS and GEORGE SIMS, 236 East 102nd Street, Los Angeles. Informant advised that FRANKIE SIMS was

Approved **DKP** DECLASSIFIED BY **SP-8 BJS/BJN**
on **12/30/81** in Charge

Copies made:

- 4-Bureau (100-12304) (REGISTERED)
- 3-New York (100-25857) (REGISTERED)
- 1-Los Angeles (100-25861)

AGENCY **State, CIA**
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. **2-28-58**
HOW FORW. **115**
BY **WIK**

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FEB 24 1958

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP

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DATE **12/30/80** BY **SP-5 BJS/BJN**

65 MAR 1958

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LA 100-25861

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

the former Treasurer of the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Negro Labor Council and that GEORGE SIMS was also a member of the Los Angeles Negro Labor Council.

The National Negro Labor Council has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON departed from Los Angeles on November 6 or 7, 1957.

ACTIVITIES

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF LOS ANGELES

[REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON was the star attraction at a program sponsored by the Religious Freedom Committee of the First Unitarian Church held on June 14, 1957 at the First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles. The money raised by this program was used to pay taxes for the First Unitarian Church.

b7D

LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE FOR
PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BORN (LACFPB)

[REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON was the featured attraction at the Festival of Nationalities sponsored by the LACFPB on June 23, 1957 at Croatian Park, 11625 Budlong Avenue, Los Angeles. At this affair ROBESON also gave a brief speech in which he criticized the State Department of the United States for having revoked his passport.

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LA 100-25861

[REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON sang several songs at the testimonial dinner sponsored by the LACFPB in honor of the LACFPB attorneys. This affair was held October 26, 1957 at Park Manor, 607 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles.

"DAILY PEOPLE'S WORLD" (DPW)

The DPW, now known as the "People's World", became a weekly publication in February, 1957 and is a west coast Communist newspaper.

[REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON was guest of honor and sang several songs at a mass meeting sponsored by the DPW on June 28, 1957 at 1528 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. During the course of this affair ROBESON also made a brief speech in praise of the DPW.

RECEPTION FOR ROBESON

[REDACTED]

A reception honoring PAUL ROBESON was held on November 1, 1957 at 236 East 102nd Street, Los Angeles, the home of FRANKIE and GEORGE SIMS.

MISCELLANEOUS

[REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON visited with WILLIAM COTTLE TAYLOR and SHIRLEY TAYLOR while in the Los Angeles area in October or November, 1957.

[REDACTED]

WILLIAM COTTLE TAYLOR was a member of the Communist Party (CP) as of January 19, 1958 and had attended some meetings

LA 100-25861

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

of the Southern California District Council of the CP shortly prior to that date.

~~_____~~

b7D

SHIRLEY TAYLOR was a member of a club in the Moranda Smith Section, Southern California District, CP, as of January 8, 1958.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Eleventh Report of the Senate
Investigating Committee on
Education for the 1953 Regular
Session of the California
Legislature, page 126

"The First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles has achieved wide influence among college and university faculties and students. It is the customary gathering place for political and religious agitators for social changes among whom proven Communists are welcomed.

"Their financial methods include announced and published admission charges for moving pictures and lectures by educators and others with long records of participation in Communist controlled organizations."

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX

LOS ANGELES COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BORN

According to the California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, Report 1955, page 388, "This particular committee is well known as a Communist front."

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX

LOS ANGELES NEGRO LABOR COUNCIL

An informant advised on [REDACTED] that the Los Angeles Negro Labor Council was, during the entire period of its existence, the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Negro Labor Council. According to the informant, the Los Angeles Negro Labor Council went out of existence in the Fall of 1955.

The National Negro Labor Council has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

- RUC -

APPENDIX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 2/17/58

D/KB: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON, Wa.
IS-C

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of the report of SA [REDACTED] dated 2/17/58 at Los Angeles and four copies of a letterhead memorandum regarding the subject. b7c

This report is classified Confidential since it contains security information, the disclosure of which would adversely affect the internal security of the United States.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized in this report only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>Location</u>
---------------------------	---	--------------------------------	-----------------

T-1 is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Oral

T-2 is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

T-3 is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

T-4 is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

T-5 is

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RSG/CLM
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

2-Bureau (Encls. 8) (REGISTERED)
3-New York (100-25857) (Encls. 8) (REGISTERED)
1-Los Angeles
PWG:DLR
(6) 14

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REC-4

100-12304-448

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17

LA 100-25861

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>Location</u>
T-6 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-7 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
" [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-8 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-9 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
" [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-10 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-11 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-12 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
" [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-13 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-14 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-15 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-16 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c
T-17 is [redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted] 7c

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b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LA 100-25861

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>Location</u>
T-18 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED]
T-19 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED]
T-20 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED]
T-21 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED] b1
T-22 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED] c
T-23 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED] c
T-24 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED] c
T-25 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED] c
T-26 1s [REDACTED]			[REDACTED] c

DOCUMENTATION OF ORGANIZATION

Los Angeles Negro Labor Council [REDACTED]

REFERENCE

Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 8/1/57 at Los Angeles. b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

February 17, 1958

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 100-25861

PAUL LEROY ROBESON
With Alias
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

All informants utilized in the report of SA [REDACTED] dated February 17, 1958 at Los Angeles have furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

[REDACTED]

b7
C

AGENCY
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW.
HOW FORW.
BY

0-6 0-146 0-147
Lab, Tech, CIA
2-21-58
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 12/31/80 BY SP-5 RSG/clm

100-1254-445

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F B I

Date: 2/5/58

Transmit the following message via

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON, was
IS - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/1/12

REASON FOR EXT.

DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

Reference is made to NY airtel 1/31/58 and Bureau airtel 2/4/58.

On [redacted] purchased two copies of the book "Here I Stand" by PAUL ROBESON at the Jefferson Book Shop, 100 East 10th Street, NYC. The book, which was published 2/3/58, is available in a paperbound edition at \$1.50 and in a clothbound edition at \$2.50. An inspection of the book reveals that it was published by Othello Associates, Inc., Box 283, Manhattanville Station, New York #27, NY, and was copyrighted 1958 by PAUL ROBESON, all rights reserved. The book is dedicated to subject's wife, ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON and consists of 128 pages. A copy is being enclosed for the use of the Bureau.

It is noted that the Jefferson Book Shop, mentioned above, deals in Communist and front group literature and is operated by MOSES WECHSLER (Bufile 100-399388). A telephonic survey of representative book stores in Manhattan on 2/4/58 reflected "Here I Stand" was not yet available for purchase with the exception of the Jefferson Book Shop.

With regard to the actual printing of "Here I Stand," the second page of the book, which bears copyright notice and publisher's name, also contains the printer's union symbol and shop number, 412.

The Official Directory of Union Label Printing Offices, dated April 1957, issued by the Allied Printing Trades Council, 63 Park Row, NYC, reflects that number 412 is listed to the New Union Press, Inc., 119 Fourth Avenue, NYC. It is noted that the 5th floor at 113-119 Fourth Avenue, NYC, is occupied by the "New Union Press" and the "Prompt Press" (Bufile 100-124080).

3 - BUREAU (100-12304) (ENC) RM
1 - NEW YORK (100-25857)

BPM:EMD #12-15

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent [Signature] Per [Signature]

CONFIDENTIAL

SUB CONTROL

FBI

Date: 2/6/58

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

PAGE TWO

On 7/25/54 [REDACTED] advised that Prompt Press is owned by BORIS COHEN [REDACTED] and his wife, FAGEL, and that BORIS COHEN also owns New Union Press. b1 b7c

On 2/5/58 [REDACTED] furnished information that on that date an unidentified man contacted PAUL ROBESON, JR., subject's son [REDACTED], and stated he desired to purchase ten copies of "Here I Stand." ROBESON, JR. advised he only had six or seven copies of the book, but there was a batch of them at PHIL'S printing place. b1 b7c

On 2/6/58 an unidentified person at the Arlain Printing Co., 2349 Eighth Avenue, NYC, was telephonically contacted under pretext by SA [REDACTED]. This person advised that his company had a large number of copies of "Here I Stand" and could fill any order. It is noted that this company is owned and operated by CYRIL MONTROSE PHILIP [REDACTED]. b7c

With regard to the name Othello Associates, Inc., it is noted that in the past subject and his son have used the name Othello Recording Company and/or Corporation as a device to make and sell subject's records and to distribute same.

On 12/3/57 [REDACTED] advised that PAUL ROBESON, JR. contacted a person in the office of HOPE STEVENS [REDACTED] and inquired if a book could be published under a different name, for example, Othello Publishers instead of Othello Recorders. ROBESON, JR. stated he was authorized to issue recordings but wanted to know if he could also issue books. b1 b7c

On this same date [REDACTED] stated PAUL ROBESON, JR. was in contact with a person believed to be LLOYD LOUIS BROWN [REDACTED]. They spoke about subject's book being put out under a different name. BROWN stated subject could do it as a subsidiary using the old name under the rights thereby acting as a publishing division of the Othello Recording Corporation. BROWN stated subject would need a Post Office Box. A woman, believed to be BROWN'S wife, LILY KASHIN BROWN [REDACTED] told ROBESON, JR. she would make arrangements for the Post Office Box and deposit some money in a bank under the name Othello Recording Corporation. b1 b7c

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

22

FBI

Date: 2/6/58

Transmit the following message via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

PAGE THREE

NY 100-25857

It is noted that LLOYD LOUIS BROWN is a member of the National Committee of the CP USA. [REDACTED]

On 2/5/58 the records of [REDACTED] were checked by SA [REDACTED]. These records revealed that a change of name card was submitted on 12/19/57 changing the name Othello Recording Corporation to Othello Associates, Inc. This change was filed by MILTON H. FRIEDMAN, Attorney-at-Law, 342 Madison Avenue, NYC.

As a matter of information, page thirteen of "Here I Stand" under Author's Forward contains the following comment of subject: "But these hasty snatches and fragments are not enough, and so in these pages I have sought to tell the story more fully. In doing this, I have been assisted by my friend, the gifted Negro writer Lloyd L. Brown, and I am deeply grateful for the warm understanding and creative quality of his work with me."

Any additional information relative to this matter will be promptly furnished the Bureau.

POWERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M _____

Per _____

23

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1); (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Above

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

To protect information which is currently and properly
Classified pursuant to Executive Order 12065 and in addition,
information provided by a Confidential Source.

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-450

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XXXXXX
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
 X FOR THIS PAGE X
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

 24
 61/001

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC *New York* (Your file *100-25-157*) DATE: *3/11*

FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and serial *100-62304-450*)

SUBJECT: *Paul Leroy Robinson* Office of Origin: *NY*

1. () The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to submit a report immediately. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No. *7260*

Report submitted _____

Report will be submitted *3/20/58*

Reason for delay _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *12/31/80* BY *SP5 BJB/ML*

2. (✓) Advise Bureau re status of this case.
3. (✓) Advise Bureau when report may be expected. *b7c* [REDACTED]
4. () Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

FBI

Date: 2/26/58

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
 Mr. Clayton _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Transmit the following in _____

in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

URGENT

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Portland (100-9258)

PAUL ROBESON

IS-C

CINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

PAUL ROBESON
 to appear in concert in Portland, Ore.

Date set for ROBESON's appearance is March
 18 next.

3-Bureau (AM) (RM)

3-Portland

(1-100-8472)

(1-100-3909)

(1-100-3952-Sub 13)

REC-29

EX-131

WSB:lam

(6)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: _____

64 MAR 13 1958

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW

12/31/90

Subversive
 Control

26

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PD 100-9258

[REDACTED]

WILLIAMS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

27

FBI

Date: 3/6/58

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

URGENT

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Portland (100-9258)

PAUL ROBESON
IS-C
CINAL

RePD CINAL 2/26/58, concerning [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] appearance of PAUL ROBESON in Portland
on 3/18/58.

Announcement of ROBESON's scheduled Portland concert was made by Portland press on 3/5 and 6/58. The OREGON JOURNAL of 3/5/58, in announcing that ROBESON would give his first concert in Portland in almost ten years at 8:00 p.m., 3/18/58, in Botsford auditorium on the Reed College campus, described ROBESON as "the famed Negro baritone with political overtones in the left-wing range." It added that ROBESON, "known in the past decade for his sympathetic attitude toward communism," would be presented in Portland by the Focus Club of Reed College, "which has no affiliation with the college or any other organization."

The OREGONIAN of 3/6/58, made a similar announcement, describing ROBESON as "one of the most famous Negro singers of this generation and a politically controversial figure in the last decade because of squabbles with the State Department over alleged Communist sympathies." According to the OREGONIAN, ROBESON "will present a vocal program of his own choosing under the sponsorship of the Focus Club,

3-Bureau (AM)(RM)

4-Portland (100-3952-Sub 13)(100-8472)(100-3908)(100-9258)

WSB:lam
(7)~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CHC
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

62 MAR 14 1958

M Per

SUB 13
CENTRAL RESEARCH
28

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~


(In plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

PD 100-9258

a student group of about 40 members." The newspaper pointed out that ROBESON's last appearance in Portland was in 1949 and he last sang at Reed College in 1939.



← b1
b7D
←

WILLIAMS

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M

Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

29

DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

3/12/58

SAC, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

INS records, NYC, reflect subject as [REDACTED]

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individuals become aware we have knowledge of the above information

- 3-Bureau [REDACTED] (RM)
① - 100-12304 (PAUL ROBESON)
1-New York 100-25853 (PAUL ROBESON)
1-[REDACTED]

NCT RECORDED
160 MAR 17 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/18/90 BY 185

Classified by 6250 N/A
Exempt from GDS Category 243
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAY 28 1977
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED]
DATE 7-17-78

CONFIDENTIAL

12/31/80
SP-5 RSC/TC (U)
12/31/90

F B I

Date: 3/13/58

Transmit the following in AIRTEL
(Type in plain text or code)Via CONFIDENTIAL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS-C

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

- 3-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
 1-Los Angeles (100-25861) (Info) (AMRM)
 1-San Francisco (100-6907) (AMRM) (Info)
 1-New York (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON)
 1-New York (65-14825 Sub-B)
 1-New York (100-25857)

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 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

JGD:meb (#17)
 (9)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/MLN
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 23 MAR 14 1958
 DATE OF REVIEW 12/3/98

5 MAR 20 1958

EX-110

REC-72 MAY 23 1977

Classified by YED 360
 Exempt from GDS, Category 2-3
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

Approved: EJ Pamer
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent M~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
 AND FIELD OFFICES
 ADVISED BY ROUTING
 SLIP(S) DATE

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL (Type in plain text or code)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Type in plain text or code)

Via _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

PAGE TWO

Copy of instant communication is designated for Los Angeles and San Francisco Divisions, inasmuch as subject is reported to be on the West Coast and is expected to return to New York in latter part of March. (u)

Information from this source if used in a report must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized person become aware we have knowledge of this information.

Submitted for information. (u)

POWERS

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

CONFIDENTIAL

32

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 3/18/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, wa
SM-C~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

29541

Corr. 69095

3-35

Enclosed herewith are the original and four copies of a blank memorandum relating to information received on 3/15/58 from [REDACTED]

Informant advised that on 3/15/58 ESLANDA ROBESON stated she is planning to travel to the West Indies on 4/15/58 for a stay of a week or two with a United Nations group.

[REDACTED] has furnished reliable information in the past. Any additional details re subject's trip as may be received from [REDACTED] will be promptly furnished to the Bureau.

ENCLOSURE

- 2 - Bureau (100-12304) (Encs. 5) (RM)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON)
- 1 - New York (100-56680)

EX-15

REC-5

EX-135

100-12304-454

16 MAR 20 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~BPM:BHT
(4)

65 APR 1 1958

memo prepared
3-27-58
F92

REC-1
15 MAR 20 1958
FBI
REASON-FOUR 11, 1-2, 4, 2
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/58

33



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York
March 18, 1958

RE: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON
SECURITY MATTER - C

In March, 1958, an informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Eslanda Robeson stated she was planning to travel to the West Indies [REDACTED] and would be there for a week or two. She stated she would make the trip with a United Nations group. b7D

Eslanda Robeson is the wife of Paul Robeson, Negro singer and actor.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

AGENCY *116 San Juan, I. Hawaii*
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. *3-26-58*
HOW FORW. *13-2-58*
BY *CR*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *12/31/80* BY *SP-5 RJS/K1111*

COPIES DESTROYED *1-1-68*

116 13364-751

ENCLOSURE

34

1 - Mr. Rachner
1 - Liaison

REC-23

100-12304-

454

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: March 27, 1958

To: Mr. E. Toalin Bailey
Director
Office of Security
Department of State
515 22nd Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

EX-128

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON
SECURITY MATTER - C

Information has been received indicating that captioned individual planned to travel to the West Indies on April 15, 1958, for a stay of one or two weeks. It was indicated that she would make the trip with a group from the United Nations.

It may be noted that Eslanda Cordozo Robeson is the wife of Paul Leroy Robeson. Information concerning both of these individuals has previously been furnished to you.

The above is for your information.

1 - Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

2 - New York (100-56680)

Attention, SAC, New York:

Reurlet 3-18-58.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BI

Remain alert for additional information concerning the proposed travel by Eslanda Robeson to the West Indies. Any information received indicating that Eslanda Robeson

1 - Records Administration Branch (By Form 0-6, same date)

NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE TWO:

ECR:aym

(9)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/om

REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

BY COURIER SVC
95 MAR 28
COMM-FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

intends to conduct business or make contacts in the West Indies on behalf of the Communist Party, USA, or related groups, which would be a violation of her credentials as an accredited correspondent at the United Nations, should be resolved and the Bureau immediately advised.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

b1
Subject in Security Index. She is an editorial consultant for "New World Review" (cited as an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda) and is an accredited correspondent in the United Nations for this publication. She has for many years rendered extensive support to the Communist Party (CP) and numerous front organizations. She has held several leadership positions in communist front organizations. Information concerning subject's proposed travel as a member of a United Nations group is being furnished to State in view of its interest in subject as accredited correspondent to United Nations. State has previously expressed interest in developing information indicating that subject may have violated her United Nations credentials and, therefore, the New York Office being alerted to the possibility that subject may do so during her travel to West Indies, where it is well known that the CP, as well as subject's husband, has many contacts. [REDACTED] and Legal Attache, London, being advised by separate memorandum. Legat., Havana and San Juan likewise being advised.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 3/18/58

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
 FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)
 SUBJECT ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON
 SM-C

ReNY telephone call to Bureau, 2:05 p.m., 3/18/58,
 and to WFOairtel to Bureau, 3/14/58, with enclosed letterhead
 memorandums also dated 3/14/58.

It is noted that letterhead memorandum mentioned above
 on page one, states that on [redacted] identified PAUL
 ROBESON as being a member of the CP as recently as 1953.

2D WFO letter to Baltimore, 6/11/57, captioned, "MARCH ON
 WASHINGTON, MAY 17, 1957" copies to NY, on page 18 and 19,
 contained information received from [redacted] On
 page 19 [redacted] advised that PAUL ROBESON, among others,
 was known to him to support and follow the CP line. He made no
 reference to ROBESON as a CP member as recently as 1953.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 BJC/CLM
 ON 12/31/80

- 3 - Bureau (100-12304)
- 2 - Washington Field (100-14994)
- 1 - New York (134-450-sub A) (CIFU)
- 1 - New York (100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON)
- 1 - New York (100-56680)

BPM:RCM (#12-15)
 (9)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 BJC/CLM
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

CONFIDENTIAL

EX-117

100-12304-455

MAR 19 1958

SUBV CONTROL

Approved: SP-5 BJC/CLM

Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDSent 100-12304-455 M Per 37

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

On [REDACTED] was contacted by SA [REDACTED] and stated he had no knowledge or information that PAUL ROBESON was a CP member as late as 1953. He further stated that he has never had any knowledge that ROBESON was a member of the CP at any time. b7c b7D

(u) [REDACTED] advised that to the best of his knowledge he had not furnished any such information re ROBESON to either the WFO or the NYO. ←

ROBESON has not been openly identified as a member of the CP subsequent to approximately 1945.

It is suggested that the WFO make necessary changes in all copies of referenced airtel and letterhead memorandum. NY copies have been changed appropriately in ink.

POWERS

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

38

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Reporting Office NEW YORK	Office of Origin NEW YORK	Date 3/20/58	Investigative Period 2/3-6, 10-13, 23, 25-27; 3/3, 5, 6/58
TITLE OF CASE PAUL LE ROY ROELSON, was.		Report made by [REDACTED] b7c	Typed By lob
<p>CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</p>		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

Synopsis:

PAUL ROELSON resides 16 Junet Terrace, New York City, and is a self-employed concert singer who recently has been appearing in New York and California. Subject speaker at NCASF Rally 11/10/57; was in contact with Soviet and satellite nationals and/or establishments 1957. Book "Here I Stand" authored by subject published 2/3/56, having been printed by New Union Press. [REDACTED] reported that county and regional committees want CP clubs to campaign for sale of "Here I Stand", each club to accept twenty-five copies for sale. At a meeting of [REDACTED] CP Club on [REDACTED] copies of "Here I Stand" were distributed to members. One "PAUL" described by R. ROBERT J. DAVIS, JR., as having a brilliant and big Marxist mind. Subject attended memorial meeting for MARION BACHRACH [REDACTED] Informants cognizant of some CP activities in NY.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) ON
DATE **3/21/58**

Approved [Signature]	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:		100-12304-456	REC-71
4 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM) 3 - New York (100-25857) 12/31/80		4-135	
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/DM REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2 DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/96		MAR 25 1958 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE	

AGENCY **Sub. State, CIA**
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. **3-21-58**
HOW FORW. **File**
BY **[Signature]**

CONFIDENTIAL

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60 APR 17 1958

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956 O-285319

39

NY 100-25857

SYNOPSIS CONT'D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

area report no recent or additional information regarding subject. "New York Times" newspaper on 2/4/58, report ROBESON appeal passport denial to make appearance in England, summer, 1958; appeal reportedly again denied by US Department of State.

- P* - /

DETAILS:

I BACKGROUND

A. Residence

In January and February 1958, [REDACTED] furnished information which reflected that subject's residence address in those months was 16 Junel Terrace, New York City.

B. Employment

On October 2, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that subject was scheduled to give a concert on October 5, 1957, which would be handled by means of a telephone broadcast originating from Associated Recording, 723 7th Avenue, New York City. [REDACTED] advised this broadcast would be made in connection with the Steadforth Festival in Wales, Great Britain. [REDACTED] was unable to advise if the scheduled concert was being transmitted directly to Wales via telephone or being pre-recorded for later transmission.

In October, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that the "Sunday Dispatch" newspaper, London, England, issue of October 6, 1957, contained an article entitled "ROBESON Sings to Miners". The article read in part, "Negro singer PAUL ROBESON talked and sang to 3,000 Welsh miners last night

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

40

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

over a 3,000 mile Transatlantic cable. Because of his left-wing politics the United States Department of State would not let ROBESON travel to Europe, so the miners, held a rally at Porthcawl, Glamorgan, phoned him at a studio in New York. He told them in a 15-minute broadcast: 'I have just won my right to go anywhere in the Americas so I know I shall soon see you in Wales.' "

On November 6, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that in November, 1957, PAUL ROBESON in discussing his recent concert tour in California, indicated that various individuals in San Francisco, and Oakland, California, were working to obtain an auditorium for him. He stated that during his recent tour he had sung in an auditorium in Stockton, California, and before a ministers union in Sacramento, California. Subject stated he was extremely well received in California, and he planned to return to the West Coast near the end of November, 1957. He further indicated that possibilities existed on the West Coast for him to engage in radio broadcasts. b7D

On November 13, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that during November, 1957, the subject expressed the opinion that he is at his best when singing in California and a possibility existed there that he can get someone in Oakland to make his recordings.

On December 29, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that during December 1957, PAUL ROBESON indicated he would soon be making recordings on the West Coast in addition to his concert work in churches and other organizations.

In December 1957, [REDACTED] advised that PAUL ROBESON was then in California doing concert work and was expected to return to New York near the middle of January 1958.

On January 22, 1958, [REDACTED] advised that during January 1958, PAUL ROBESON indicated that he had finished some recording work for Vanguard Records and that in his opinion his voice was better in 1958, than it was twenty years ago.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On January 24, 1958, [redacted] advised that during January, 1958, PAUL ROBESON had completed a new musical album for Vanguard Records New York City.

On January 31, 1958, [redacted] furnished information which indicated that PAUL ROBESON was then in California and would return to New York on February 15, 1958.

The February 12, 1958, issue of "Variety" newspaper, page sixty-nine, contained an article entitled "One-Man Campaigner Cries 'Foul'; Fails to Halt PAUL ROBESON Concert." This article concerned a concert given by PAUL ROBESON at the Cook Auditorium Theater, San Francisco, California, during early February 1958. It noted that ROBESON sang to a near capacity crowd in the 2,000 seat theater resulting in an estimated gross receipts for the concert of \$5,600. The article pointed out that efforts to prevent the concert had failed and this was ROBESON's first concert in a city owned theater in Northern California in about ten years. b7D

In January and February 1958, in addition to that set forth above, [redacted] furnished information which reflected that PAUL ROBESON was a self-employed concert singer currently engaged in giving concerts on the East and West Coasts, making recordings in New York, and planning a wide-range of concert activities in the future. [redacted] further advised that PAUL ROBESON planned to be in Los Angeles, California, to continue his concert activities on February 28, 1958.

II AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

A. Evidence of Membership in or Sympathies with Communist Party Front Organizations

"The Worker" issue of November 7, 1957, page four, column two contained an article which noted that PAUL ROBESON would speak and sing at a Carnegie Hall meeting, New York City

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

CONFIDENTIAL

of the National Council of American - Soviet Friendship (NCASF) to be held Sunday, November 10, 1957. The article pointed out that ROBESON was flying East from the West Coast to share in the traditional observance of the anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the USSR.

The NCASF has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

"The Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper.

The "Daily Worker" issue of November 12, 1957, page one, column one, contained an article concerning a rally of the NCASF held November 10, 1957, at Carnegie Hall, New York City, at which the subject was a speaker. Concerning remarks of the subject, the article stated, "ROBESON recalled that visiting the Soviet Union in 1954 was 'as I often afterwards said, like standing on a new planet' where he felt no discrimination as to color existed. 'Now' he said, 'we begin to see it will be possible to stand on another planet' and survey the earth. Enemies of the Soviet Union, he declared, had better forget about pushing them back they'd better just decide to live in peace and friendship".

It is noted that the date 1954 in the above article is an obvious misprint as informants who attended the rally reported that ROBESON actually said 1934.

The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast Communist daily newspaper which suspended publication in January, 1958.

On [REDACTED] advised that PAUL ROBESON attended the NCASF rally on November 10, 1957, held in Carnegie Hall, New York City. [REDACTED] stated ROBESON sang

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 100-25857

several Russian songs and in a speech expressed his elation over the successful Russian satellites. According to [REDACTED] ROBESON stated that his people, like the Russians, had known poverty and slavery. He stated he would never forget all that Russia has done for him nor would he ever forget his first visit there where he was treated like an equal.

During November, 1957, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] furnished substantially the same information set forth above relative to subject's participation at the NCASF rally held November 10, 1957, at New York City.

B. Communist Party (CP) Associates

In September, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that on September 3, 1957, BEN DAVIS had visited the subject at his residence 16 Jumel Terrace, New York City.

[REDACTED] (c)
[REDACTED] (c)
On [REDACTED] advised that WILLIAM L. PATTERSON had recently been elected to the State Committee of the New York State CP.

On [REDACTED] advised that according to [REDACTED] the New York State CP Committee and the National Executive Committee of the CP had approved a list of functionaries for "The Worker". Included was WILLIAM PATTERSON, General Manager.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] (C)

Records of the Clerk of Court, Criminal Division, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, reflected that on July 31, 1956, ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG was found guilty of violating the Smith Act of 1940. On September 17, 1956, Federal Judge ALEXANDER BICKS imposed a one year sentence on TRACHTENBERG as a result of this conviction.

Records of the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, reflected that on September 17, 1956, a notice of appeal was filed by TRACHTENBERG. Following the entry of the notice of this appeal, Judge BICKS granted a defense motion to continue the defendants in United States vs. TRACHTENBERG, Et Al on their present bail.

The "Daily Worker" issue of February 13, 1957, identified JAMES E. JACKSON as one of the twenty members at large elected to the National Committee of the CP at the 16th National Convention of the CP, USA held in New York City February 9-12, 1957.

C. Miscellaneous Activities

1. Contacts with Soviet or Satellite Officials
Nationals and/or Establishments

[REDACTED] e b1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] b1
(c)

Subject's son PAUL ROBESON, JR., will be documented in a subsequent section of this report.

On [REDACTED] advised that on October 8, 1957, ROBESON attended a reception held at the Rumanian Mission to the UN held at the headquarters of the Mission on East 93rd Street, New York City. b7D

On [REDACTED] b7C
[REDACTED] b7E
advised that on November 7, 1957, he attended a reception held at the Soviet Embassy, Washington, D.C., which was given in celebration of the October Revolution. [REDACTED] stated that among persons in attendance at this reception was PAUL ROBESON.

[REDACTED] b1
(c)

[REDACTED] (c)

2. Subversive Activities in the Publishing, Printing and Distribution of Subject's Book "Here I Stand"

On October 28, 1957, [REDACTED] furnished information which indicated that at that time PAUL ROBESON was engaged in writing a book. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any additional information concerning it.

In November, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that during that month LLOYD BROWN was in contact with BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR. [REDACTED] further advised that BROWN was interested in a book concerning PAUL ROBESON and desired Mrs. DAVIS, wife of BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., to type the manuscript of the book prior to its submission to the printers.

During the period [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that LLOYD L. BROWN was then a member of the National Committee, CP, USA, from the New York District.

In November, 1957, [REDACTED] advised that on November 26, 1957, NINA DAVIS, wife of BENJAMIN J. DAVIS JR., indicated she had completed typing fifty pages of a manuscript for LLOYD BROWN and would soon complete the last ninety-two pages.

"The Worker" issue of January 12, 1958, page eleven, column four, contained an article entitled "ROBESON Book Coming Feb. 3". This article in part read as follows:

"PAUL ROBESON noted Negro singer and actor has written a book 'Here I Stand' which will be published by Athlete Associates, Inc., on February 3.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"The book presents a comprehensive statement of ROBESON's views on the controversies which have centered around him and of his outlook on present efforts to achieve first-class citizenship for Negro Americans 'as I see it' he writes, 'the challenge which today confronts the Negro people in the U.S. can be stated in two propositions 1. Freedom can be ours, here and now: the long sought goal of full citizenship under the constitution is within our reach. 2. We have the power to achieve that goal: what we ourselves do will be decisive' ". 7

On [REDACTED] advised that on [REDACTED] a meeting of [REDACTED] the CP was held at [REDACTED] advised that EARL STANLEY, a CP member who attended the meeting, announced that PAUL ROBESON was publishing a new book entitled "Here I Stand". STANLEY stated the County and Regional Committee of the CP wants all the active CP clubs to plan a campaign for the sale of the book when it is released. b7D

In January 1958, [REDACTED] advised that on January 29, 1958, a meeting of the National Administrative Committee CP, USA, was held in New York City. During the course of this meeting it was announced that a book by PAUL ROBESON was being published and that 10,000 copies of the book had been printed.

On [REDACTED] advised that on [REDACTED] a meeting of [REDACTED] CP Club was held at [REDACTED] During the meeting a report of a special meeting which had been held at the residence of PAUL ROBESON, JR., on January 27, 1958, to plan distribution of the subject's book "Here I Stand" was delivered. This report noted a decision that each CP Club would accept 25 books at \$1.50 for cloth binding and \$2.50 for a regular edition which are to be sold to the general public. 7

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

It was pointed out that money from [REDACTED] should be paid in advance so that the publisher could be paid and the book released.

[REDACTED] stated that according to the report from the [REDACTED] meeting, sometime in the near future a book shop will be set up in Harlem near 125th Street and 8th Avenue which will be known as the Fairlane Book Shop. This shop would be for the purpose of distributing and selling the ROEBSON book. [REDACTED] stated that PAUL ROEBSON JR., would be in charge of this particular operation.

In October, 1957 [REDACTED] advised that at that time PAUL ROEBSON, JR., was Educational Director of the Harlem Region of the CP.

On [REDACTED] made available a copy of the book "Here I Stand" by PAUL ROEBSON. The book consisting of 128 pages was available in a paper bound edition at \$1.50 and cloth bound edition at \$2.50, and was published by Othello Associates, Inc., Box 283, Manhattanville Station, New York 27, New York. It was copyrighted 1958 by PAUL ROEBSON, all rights reserved.

An examination of "Here I Stand" disclosed that on its second page it contained the above mentioned copyright notice and a printers union symbol number namely 412.

The Official Directory of union label printing offices dated April 1957, issued by the Allied Printing Trades Council, 63 Park Row, New York City, reflects that union label number 412 is registered to New Union Press, Inc., 119 4th Avenue, New York City. It is noted that the fifth floor at 113-119 4th Avenue, New York City, is occupied by both the New Union Press and the Prompt Press.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] New Union Press which was a subsidiary of Prompt Press.

Page 13 of "Here I Stand" under author's forward contains the following comment of the subject: "In doing

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"this (book) I have been assisted by my friend the gifted Negro writer LLOYD L. BROWN, and I am deeply grateful for the warm understanding and the creative quality of his work with me." LLOYD L. BROWN has been previously described in this report.

On [redacted] advised that on [redacted] copies of PAUL ROBESON's book "Here I Stand" were distributed to members of [redacted]

[redacted] CP, [redacted] advised that each member was given five copies to be sold at \$1.50 and in addition each member was asked to try and sell at least twenty-five copies.

On [redacted] advised that on [redacted] CP held a meeting at [redacted] [redacted] advised that a report on the sale of ROBESON's book "Here I Stand" was given during which it was noted that 50 copies have been distributed by the club but very little money had been received up to that date. Each one present at the meeting was urged to collect money for the book as soon as possible as the publisher was pressing for money to continue the release of more books.

3. Other Miscellaneous Activities

In August 1957, [redacted] advised that during that month BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR., in conversation concerning one PAUL described PAUL as a great champion on the Jewish question. DAVIS stated that PAUL has a brilliant and big Marxist mind and he criticized the Jewish leaders of the CP who were saying nothing about the struggle for PAUL's passport. DAVIS further commented that JOHN GATES had recently stated that PAUL ROBESON has more effect than the whole American CP.

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The "Daily Worker" of February 13, 1957, page two, column four, reflected that during the 16th National Convention of the CP, USA, held in February 1957, JOHN GATES was one of the twenty individuals elected to the National Committee of the CP.

The "Daily Worker" issue of September 23, 1957, page five, column two, contained an article entitled "ROBESON Urges Gov't Defend Constitution Against Racists" by-lined "PAUL ROBESON". This article concerned the situation in Little Rock, Arkansas, which was termed as a desperate attack on Constitutional Government. The article calls for immediate action to halt racist attacks on Negroes everywhere including some United Nations action on the race situation in South Africa.

On [REDACTED] made available a letter dated September 12, 1957, bearing the title "WILLIAM L. PATTERSON, Public Relations Counsellor, 23 East 26th Street, New York 10, New York. This letter, addressed to "Dear friend" included a statement from PAUL ROBESON on the significance of the events in Arkansas. This statement also dated September 12, 1957, consisted of a copy of ROBESON's article which appeared in the September 23 issue of the "Daily Worker".

On [REDACTED] advised that on [REDACTED] PAUL ROBESON attended a memorial meeting for MARION BACHRACH held at the Sheraton - McAlpin Hotel, New York City. [REDACTED] advised that PAUL ROBESON spoke briefly of BACHRACH's life and sang two songs, the latter of which contained the words "sleep well beloved comrade, the fight, our fight goes on until we win", and was apparently written for the occasion.

On [REDACTED] also furnished substantially the same information regarding the memorial meeting on [REDACTED] set forth above.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MARION BACHRACH was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, on June 20, 1951, on charges of conspiring to violate the Smith Act of 1940. On July 2, 1952, during the trial in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, of the United States vs. ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, et al, in which BACHRACH was a co-defendant on the above charge, BACHRACH was severed from the trial due to illness. On June 18, 1956, BACHRACH received a directed verdict of acquittal. MARION BACHRACH is now deceased.

III MISCELLANEOUS

Informants cognizant of some CP activity in the New York area were contacted relative to the subject during February 1958, and could furnish no recent or additional information concerning him.

On February 10, 1958, the records of [REDACTED] were checked by SA [REDACTED] and reflect no information relative to the subject not already known to this Bureau. b7D b7C

The "New York Times" newspaper issue of February 25, 1958, contained an article entitled "Soviet Plans Film on ROELSON". This article stated that the Soviet Union planned to make a movie about PAUL ROELSON and also Dr. HEVILETT JOHNSON, the "Red Dean of Canterbury". The article quoted MOSCOW radio as broadcasting that a central documentary film studio had started productions of movies concerning "outstanding peace partisans", and the movie of ROELSON would be released later in 1958.

The "New York Times" newspaper issue of January 15, 1958, page 59, contained an article entitled "ROELSON Accepts British Bid". This article reported that ROELSON had accepted a bid to sing on British T.V. In connection with it he would renew his plea to the United States Department of State for a passport previously denied him.

NY 100-25857

It was further noted that the bid accepted by ROBESON was for April 9, 1958, at the London Palladium, London, England. The "Trinidad Chronicle" newspaper published in Trinidad, British West Indies, on September 22, 1957, contained an article entitled "ROBESON is Coming". This article stated that PAUL ROBESON will be definitely coming to the West Indies during the Winter of 1957-1958. The article quoted ROBESON as stating "they won't allow me to travel to Europe but it will come. I have just been freed to travel in the Western Hemisphere. That means I can go to the West Indies this winter. I have a big following there".

The "New York Times" newspaper, late city edition, issue of February 4, 1958, page 32 contained an article entitled "ROBESON Appeals Passport Denial". This article stated that PAUL ROBESON had asked the United States Department of State for a "limited passport" to make a summer 1958 appearance at the Shakespeare Memorial Theater in England. The article continued that in a letter dated December 10, 1957, ROBESON's attorney LEONARD B. BOWLIN wrote Mrs. FRANCES KNIGHT, Director of the Passport Office, United States Department of State, that ROBESON would not travel to any country other than England if the passport was granted.

By letter dated January 17, 1958, Mrs. KNIGHT informed BOWLIN that the State Department deemed it necessary that ROBESON answer questions with respect to CP membership before consideration could be given to his request.

The article pointed out that subsequently Mr. BOWLIN wrote to LOY M. HENDERSON, Deputy Under Secretary of State asked that the State Department reconsider its position.

On [REDACTED] identified [REDACTED] to be a concealed member of the CP and actively associated with CP front organizations prior to 1945.

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NY 100-25857

APPENDIX

The Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications revised and published as of January 2, 1957, to supersede Guide published on May 14, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., contains the following concerning the Prompt Press.

PROMPT PRESS

1. "Prints the bulk of the literature issued by the Communist Party and its affiliates and is reliably known to be owned by the Communist Party."

--- "(Attorney General Francis Biddle, Congressional Record, September 24, 1942, p. 7685.)"

- P* -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 3/20/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON, was.
IS - C

Enclosed is the original and three copies each of a report of SA [REDACTED] and a letterhead memorandum all dated and captioned as above.

REFERENCES

Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 9/20/57, at NYC; report of SA [REDACTED] dated 12/19/57, at San Francisco, California; report of SA [REDACTED] dated 2/17/58, at Los Angeles, California.

LEADNEW YORK DIVISION

At New York City

Will follow and report activities of the subject.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File where Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	--------------------

T-1

12/31/80
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/KW
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 12/31/90

- 2 - Bureau (100-12304) (Encls 8) (RM)
3 - New York (100-25857)

BPM:bab
(5)

REC-77

21 MAR 25 1958

ENCLOSURE

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EX-135

CONFIDENTIAL

SUB CONTROL

NY NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number Where Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

T-1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

T-2
Legal Attache,
American Embassy
London, England

T-3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b1
b7D

100-25857-3083

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number where Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	---------------------------

T-4

T-5

T-6

T-7

T-8

T-9

T-10

100-25857-3143

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to Whom Furnished	File Number when Located
--------------------	--	---------------	-------------------------	--------------------------

T-11

T-12

T-13

T-14

T-15

T-16

T-17

T-18

T-19

T-20

b1
b7D

100-25857-3102

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

56

NY 100-25857

X

Identity of Source

Date of Activity and/or Description of Information

Date Received

Agent to Whom Furnished

File Number when Located

T-21

T-22

T-23

T-24

T-25

T-26

b1
b7D

100-25857-3218

100-84275-1136

100-84275-1B46

X

24

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 100-25857

Informants cognizant of some CP activity in the New York area contacted relative to the subject during February, 1958, with negative results are as follows:

INFORMANT	DATE CONTACT	AGENT	LOCATION
[REDACTED] C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Instant memo. b1
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	" b7C
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	" b7D

ADMINISTRATIVE

Subject's wife ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, NY file 100-56680, Bufile 100-12304, is carried on the SI of the NYO.

[REDACTED] b7C

Subject is a key figure of the NYO.

On [REDACTED] b1/b7D
[REDACTED] advised that he believed that NIKOLAI A. LYTCHIN or VLADIMIR D. LOGINOV of the Soviet Mission to the UN, NYC, conducted a filmed interview of PAUL ROBESON. He stated that to the best of his knowledge the filmed interview was shown at the UN after suitable arrangements had been made and consisted mostly of ROBESON singing several Soviet songs.

[REDACTED]

Referred to the Department of the Navy for their review and return to the FBI

It is noted that one copy of "Here I Stand" was furnished the Bureau as an enclosure to NY letter to Bureau dated 2/6/58.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

66

1. ☒ Subject's name is included in the Security Index.
2. ☒ The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3. ☐ Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4. ☒ A suitable photograph ☒ is ☐ is not available.
5. ☒ Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
6. ☐ Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are _____
7. ☒ This report is classified confidential because (state reason) it contains information indicating that the FBI has coverage of front organizations and CP meetings at certain locations in NY. If this information was disclosed, it would possibly reveal identity of informant and seriously hamper investigation of the CP and this could be injurious to the National Defense.
8. ☐ Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason)
No interview of subject is being recommended in view of his position in public life. It is also believed that ROBESON, if interviewed, could constitute a possible source of embarrassment to this Bureau.
9. ☐ This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10. ☒ This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason)
ROBESON was National Chairman of the Council on African Affairs until its dissolution in June, 1955. ROBESON, further, because of his position in public life, has not seen fit to serve outwardly on behalf of the CP, but his established Communist sympathies, his past contributions to the Communist movement and his long history of association and/or membership in CP front organizations, is believed to place him well within the SI criteria.



100-25857

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

New York, New York
March 20, 1958

Paul Le Roy Robeson
IS - C

The following is the evaluation of informants set forth in the report of Special Agent Benjamin P. McManus dated and captioned as above.

[redacted] and [redacted] contact with whom has been insufficient to judge reliability.

[redacted] was in a position to furnish reliable information.

[redacted] through [redacted] and [redacted] have furnished reliable information in the past.

Informants mentioned in the report as having been contacted relative to the subject during February 1958, with negative results, have all furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/31/80 BY SP-5 RSC/DW

0-6 0146 0148
AGENCY Calif State, CIA
REQ REC'D
DATE FORW. 2-27-58
HOW FORW. By [redacted]
BY [redacted]

12304-457
ENCLOSURE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Tele. Rm.
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

3/14/58

FROM: SAC, WFO (100-14994)

ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka
SM - C
(OO: NY)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

Attached hereto are six copies for the Bureau and three copies for the New York Office of a letterhead memo dated 3/14/58, captioned "ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka Mrs. PAUL ROBESON."

[REDACTED]

The following informants were utilized in attached letterhead memo:

T-1 - [REDACTED]

T-2 - [REDACTED]

T-3 - a highly confidential source (documentation anonymous).

T-4 - [REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE
4-Bureau (Encls. 6)
(1-105-53022)
3-New York (100-56680) (Encls. 3)
(1-105-21173)
2-WFO

100-12304-245
Will be disseminated to State
MAR 20 1958
FBI - NEW YORK
REC'D BEHNDI
Tolson
ESP

AIRTEL

WFO 100-14994

Attached letterhead memo contains information reflecting that [REDACTED]

Inasmuch as Mrs. ROBESON is an SI subject of the NY Office, that office [REDACTED]

b7C
b7D



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Washington 25, D.C.
March 14, 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka
Mrs. PAUL ROBESON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

In October, 1956, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that Eslanda Goode Robeson, the wife of Paul Robeson, is the editorial consultant on Negro and colonial questions of the "New World Review" with offices located in Suite 201 at 23 West 26th Street, New York City, New York, and is an accredited correspondent of the "New World Review" to the United Nations.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of January 2, 1957, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., reflects the following information concerning the "New World Review."

"Cited as an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda is the magazine 'New World Review.' It was formerly known as 'Soviet Russia Today' (Internal Security sub-Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, Senate Document 117, April 23, 1956, Page 90.)"

Confidential Informant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised in [REDACTED] that Paul Robeson was known to him, prior to 1945, as a concealed Communist.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

[REDACTED]

(c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

COPIES DESTROYED

899 AUG 29 1973

AGENCY
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW.
HOW FORW.
BY

100-104-458

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/2/91 BY SP-5 RSC/BLZ

b7D

b7D

b1

amended 4/1/58
delivered 10/1/58
new info 11/2/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka
Mrs. PAUL ROBESON

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c) b1

[REDACTED] (c)

The February, 1958, issue of the "Diplomatic List," published by the United States Department of State, lists Madame Mamedova as the wife of Enver N. Mamedov, Information Secretary of the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. a

[REDACTED] (c)

This memorandum is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, WFO (100-14994)
ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka
SM - C
(OO: NY)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3/14/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL ATTACHED~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Attached hereto are six copies for the Bureau
and three copies for the New York Office of a letterhead
memo dated 3/14/58, captioned "ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON, aka
Mrs. PAUL ROBESON."

The following informants were utilized in attached
letterhead memo:

T-1 - [REDACTED]

T-2 - [REDACTED]

T-3 - a highly confidential source (documentation
anonymous).

T-4 [REDACTED]

4-Bureau (Encls. 6) ~~CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL ATTACHED~~

(1-105-53022)

3-New York (100-56680) (Encls. 3)

(1-105-21173)

2-WFO

FJC:baa/arg

(9)

AIRTEL

REC-56

EX-136

CORRECTED FIRST PAGE

CORRECTED 25-1958 FIRST PAGE

AUG 17 1977

APR 2 1958

F B I

Date: 3/17/58

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL URGENT
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (100-9258)

RE: PAUL ROBESON
IS-C
CINAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/2/81 BY SP-5 RSG/BJ

Re Portland Cinals 3/6/58 and 2/26/58,
concerning concert by PAUL ROBESON scheduled in
Portland on 3/18/58.

Extensive publicity, including three large
front-page photographs, appeared in today's issue of
The Oregonian, Portland daily newspaper, following
arrival of ROBESON in Portland for concert.

A lengthy article on inside page told of
interview of ROBESON on Sunday, March 16. According
to article, ROBESON stated that he thought it was
"unlikely" that he would be permitted to leave the
country to accept singing and acting invitations in
England. The article pointed out that ROBESON had
filed suit this month in an effort to obtain a passport
before the English engagements in June and quoted him
as follows: "It's unlikely that I'll make it at this
time, although this whole thing is getting pretty
absurd in the light of our cultural relations abroad.
But if the case came up in time there's no doubt that
I'd win, because the state department is interfering
with my livelihood."

3-Bureau
1-Portland (1-100-9258)
(1-100-8472)(1-100-3908)
(1-100-8952-Sub 13)

WSB:mts

REC-31

15 MAR 21 1958

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

PD 100-9258

The article went on to say in part: "He said his English invitations were to appear over that country's national television in a concert with 'every leading English composer from Benjamin Britten to Vaughn Williams,' and also to play the role of 'Othello' at the Shakespeare Theater at Stratford-on-Avon.

"I think it's important for people to know that I'm getting these invitations from abroad, because it shows how necessary a passport is for me", he stated.

"In his Portland visit, he emphasized, 'I'm here as an artist. I'm here, I believe, with a richer collection than ever before. I can say, modestly, that I'm one of the finer artists in America, and the reviews I recently got in California were fabulous.'

"For the past year, he said, he had been appearing in concerts, indicating that he intended to resume the major concert role he had established before the storm of controversy which arose over his proclaimed sympathies in many instances with Russia.

"The fact that he now, apparently, has much more to say about music than about politics does not mean that he has changed his opinions. 'My political position is precisely the same now as it has always been,' he declared.

"One story which sparked the Robeson controversy was an alleged statement from him that American negroes would never fight against Russia, but he said Sunday he had been quoted 'out of context.'

-2-

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

FD 100-9258

"His most recent appearances have been under the sponsorship of Negro groups, with many recitals in Negro churches. 'When I go back east I'll be singing in Carnegie Hall.'

"No political message will be given with his Reed concert, he indicated. 'In the old days, perhaps, some people did not come to my concerts because they were afraid I might launch into a lecture, but if I speak now it would be on the relation of Negro music to other music of the world.'

According to the article, ROBESON spoke informally on the Reed College campus, Portland, where he is to sing Tuesday night, March 18, 1958.

WILLIAMS

-3-

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Mr. Clayton _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

WFO 130-14224

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

T-1 - [REDACTED] c

T-2 - [REDACTED] c

T-3 - [REDACTED] c

T-4 - [REDACTED] c

T-5 - [REDACTED] c

The attached letterhead memo is being furnished for the info of the Bureau and the Office of Origin in the ROBESON case and copies are designated for the CG Division files of [REDACTED] CCASP, and ROBESON as info contained therein reflects that ROBESON will be in the CG Division territory during April, 1958, where he will be in contact with the CCASP. b7c

In addition to the info contained in the attached letterhead memo, [REDACTED] further learned on 3/13/58, that a friend of the ROBESONS, who recently won a prize at a film festival for a film on "skin color" has proposed to the ROBESONS that he do a film of PAUL ROBESON in concert performances

According to informant, this friend knows many of the top people in the film industry and has discussed this project with them. Informant learned that the plan is to record PAUL ROBESON in recital on film, which film could have world-wide distribution. Informant further learned that the profits from this project after costs are to be split, 75 per cent to the ROBESONS and 25 per cent to the friend. b1

If info furnished by [REDACTED] is utilized in a report, it should be suitably paraphrased to protect the identity of the informant and classified "Confidential" since [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Washington 25, D. C.
March 20, 1958

ESLANDA GOODL ROBESON
PAUL LEROY ROBESON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

[REDACTED]

b1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/CLM
REASON FOR EXT. 1-4.4.2 2, 3
DATE OF REVIEW 11/21/91

X 173

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON
PAUL LEROY ROBESON

In October, 1956, Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that Eslanda Goode Robeson, the wife of Paul Robeson, is the editorial consultant on Negro and colonial questions of the "New World Review" with offices located in Suite 201 at 23 West Twenty-Sixth Street, New York, New York, and is an accredited correspondent of the "New World Review" to the United Nations.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications," revised and published as of January 2, 1957, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., reflects the following information concerning the "New World Review."

"Cited as an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda is the magazine 'New World Review.' It was formerly known as 'Soviet Russia Today' (Internal Security sub-Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, Senate Document 117, April 23, 1956, Page 90)."

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised in [redacted] that Paul Robeson was known [redacted] prior to 1945, as a concealed communist. b7D

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On [redacted] Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that Leroy Wolins is the Administrative Secretary of the CCASF.

On [redacted] Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that the CCASF since its inception in Chicago in the 1940's, has never failed to propagandize for Russia and the Russian way of life. This informant further advised that the CCASF has been using speakers who were known to the informant as members of the Communist Party, since the first meetings in the 1940's. This informant advised that the program of the CCASF has always included speakers, movies, and pamphlets praising every aspect of Russia, including its foreign policy and has been extremely critical of the United States' domestic and foreign policies.

**Re: ESLANDA GOODE ROBESON
PAUL LEROY ROBESON**

The February, 1958, "Diplomatic List," published by the United States Department of State, lists Madame Mamedov as the wife of Enver N. Mamedov, Information Secretary, Embassy of the USSR.

[REDACTED] b1

(c)
This memorandum is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Handwritten signature/initials

***PAUL ROBESON v. JOHN FOSTER DULLES**

The summons and complaint was served on the Attorney General on March 3, 1958. Plaintiff seeks a declaratory judgment and other equitable relief to declare that the Passport Regulations of the Secretary of State (22 C.F.R. 51.135 et seq.) as applied to the plaintiff, are unauthorized, unlawful and invalid. Plaintiff further prays that the defendant be enjoined from interfering with plaintiff's travel outside the U.S., from continuing to refuse to grant a passport to the plaintiff, and to direct the defendant to issue a passport to the plaintiff forthwith. Defendant refused to grant a passport to plaintiff based on his refusal to answer questions concerning present and past membership in the Communist Party which are contained in the passport application form.

Information included in Internal Security Division
Monthly Status Report for March, 1958.

100-12304
NOT RECORDED
21 APR 29 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/2/81

SP-5 RSG/CUM
100-12304
J-BR

66 APR 29 1958

Handwritten initials

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AIRTEL

FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3/20/58

Transmit the following message via

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

11/2/81

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 R56/CLM
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-25861)
 RE: PAUL ROBESON
 SM - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
 OTHERWISE

Reference is made to New York airtel of 3/13/58
 to Bureau regarding ROBESON and the contacting of ROBESON's
 wife by [REDACTED]

b1 [REDACTED] in submitting the results of [REDACTED] b7E

[REDACTED], reported that the Communist Party this area
 through its leaders stated that it is very important that
 they support PAUL ROBESON and his book and they should
 utilize ROBESON while he is on the Pacific Coast to good
advantage.

b1 [REDACTED] advised that based upon his knowledge
 of ROBESON, his background, intelligence, and nationalistic
 sympathy, feels that he may well be one of the real leaders
 or possibly the real leader behind the FOSTER-DAVIS faction
 in the Communist Party and that he, because of former trips
 to the Soviet Union and to Europe, may be the one who actually
 is giving the line. This informant advised further that he
 felt strongly from the bits of conversation which he over-
 heard, that PAUL ROBESON is not in California for reasons
 strictly of a non-political nature and that he may have come
 to this area which is more one of the strongholds of the
 "right" elements of the Party for the specific purpose of
 swaying support to the left. It was this informant's further
 opinion that in event the Bureau has not considered watching

3 - Bureau
 2 - New York (100-25857)
 (1 - 65-14825 sub B)
 1 - Los Angeles
 MLP:BLH

REC-18

EX-110

100-12304-465

AIRTEL

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

M

Per [Signature]

85

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LA 100-25861

PAUL ROBESON's activities and contacts very carefully that such steps might be very productive, and in his opinion, ROBESON is much more dangerous to the security of this country than those who have taken the position of extreme "right".

PAUL ROBESON, who appeared at a mass "People's World" newspaper function last Friday, 3/14/58, has been reported by informants as having stated that he is a Marxist first and last. Informants were impressed with the left position which he seemed to take at this open meeting.

The above is submitted for information purposes.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 Mr. Rachner

SAC, New York (100-25857)

March 27, 1958

REC-18

100-12304-465
Director, FBI (100-12304)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EX-101 PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Re Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau 3-20-58.

In view of information furnished by [redacted] the activities of Robeson should be closely followed to determine whether he may be actively engaged in behalf of the left faction of the Communist Party (CP). Although it has been established that Robeson has long been exploited by the CP for financial and political advantage, no recent evidence has been developed which would indicate that Robeson has taken a direct part in the policy or other affairs of the CP. Consequently, any information which would tend to corroborate the comments of [redacted] should be fully explored and the Bureau promptly advised. In this regard, the New York Office should contact appropriate informants and sources to elicit their comments concerning the attitude of CP leaders regarding the current concert and lecture tour of Robeson. Any information indicating that the tour is controlled, sponsored, guided, or influenced by the CP should be resolved and the Bureau promptly advised.

For the information of San Francisco and Portland, [redacted] advised that [redacted] through its leaders emphasized the importance of supporting Robeson and his book. It was stated that the CP should utilize Robeson to good advantage while he is on the west coast. [redacted] rendered his opinion that Robeson may be one of the real leaders behind the Foster-Davis faction in the CP. The informant advised further that he felt strongly that Robeson is not in California for reasons of a strictly nonpolitical nature, but that he may have come to the area for the purpose of influencing "right" elements of the CP to sway to the left.

COMM - FBI
MAR 27 1958
MAILED 30

2 - Los Angeles (100-25861)

2 - San Francisco (100-6907)

2 - Portland

NOTE ON YELLOW:

See page two.

BCR:aym

MAIL ROOM

F 173

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OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
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Parsons _____
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Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CLASS. BY SP-5 RSC/CLM
REASON-FOIA, 25X2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

Letter to SAC, New York
Re: Paul Leroy Robeson
100-12304

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is key figure of New York Office. He is the noted Negro concert singer who has for many years supported CP and front causes and has likewise been outspoken in praise of the Soviet Union. In recent past Robeson has become extremely active in concert and lecture appearances. He is currently on the west coast where his appearances have given rise to considerable publicity. There has been no information developed indicating that Robeson has directly been active in CP affairs and, therefore, it is felt that efforts be made by currently interested offices to resolve the information noted above which was furnished [REDACTED] No dissemination being made of the information inasmuch as it is the opinion of the informant and inasmuch as there is no corroboration of the information contained in Bufiles. b1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F B I

Date: 3/24/58

Transmit the following message via AIRTEL~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
 FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)
 SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON
 IS-C

The "New York Mirror", 3/22/58, in its editorial, indicated that (Prime Minister) NEHRU (of India) was lending support in India to an unusual campaign - that of "whooping it up for American singer PAUL ROBESON and a celebration of ROBESON's 60th Birthday, April 9". NEHRU also described ROBESON as a sufferer "in the cause for human dignity". (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

DAVIS replied, "yeah, oh this is all so magnificent - you know when government of 400 million people you just can't brush that aside". (u)

Informant was unable to furnish any further information regarding this conversation. (u)

Classified by 2650 Yhe
 Exempt from GDS, Category 1
 Date of Declassification Indefinite

POWERS 5/1/20

MAY 28 1977

- 3 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
 1 - NY (100-23825) (BENJAMIN J. DAVIS, JR.) 12-15
 1 - NY (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON) 12-15
 1 - NY (100-95550) [REDACTED] 12-15
 1 - NY (100- [REDACTED]) 12-15
 1 - NY (100-25857) 12-15

REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED
 AND FIELD OFFICES
 ADVISED BY ROUTING
 SLIP(S) OF
 APPROVED: [Signature]
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUB CONTROL

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP25 RSC/clw
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/9

REC-11 100-12304-466

EX-135

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 OTHERWISE

87

1 - Liaison Section
1 - Mr. Rachner

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REC-17

100-12304-466

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Date: March 27, 1958

To: Mr. E. Tamm Bailey
Director
Office of Security
Department of State
515 22nd Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LAROF ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RST/CTM
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

Reference is made to previous communications
concerning Robeson.

An editorial appearing in the March 22, 1958,
issue of the "New York Mirror" indicated that Nehru
(Prime Minister Nehru of India) was lending support to
a campaign of "whoooping it up for American singer Paul
Robeson and a celebration of Robeson's 60th birthday,
April 9." According to the editorial, Nehru described
Robeson as a sufferer "in the cause for human dignity."

BY COURIER SVC

95 MAR 28

RECEIVED - FBI

The above is furnished for your information.

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

2 - Director

Central Intelligence Agency (By 0-6, same date)

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

BCR:ef
(8)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE 2

MAIL ROOM ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. E. Tomlin Bailey

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Robeson is key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported the Communist Party and related front groups and has likewise been outspoken in praise of the Soviet Union. In the recent past, Robeson has become quite active in concert and lecture appearances in the United States for which he has been given considerable publicity. In view of Robeson's 60th birthday in 4/58, the Soviet Embassy, various United States front organizations and several foreign countries, including Russia, England and India, are planning a birthday celebration for Robeson. Nehru and Indian government support of Robeson, as indicated in above article, is the subject of much concern by the State Department. According to State Department cables, All India Paul Robeson Birthday Committee has been formed. This Committee is publicizing Robeson as a great singer, actor and humanist, who has identified himself completely with the poor, the humble and the downtrodden to the point where he is looked upon as the symbol of human aspiration and of the dignity of man. Apparently Prime Minister Nehru has stated that Robeson was a great friend of India during independence. Although Nehru is reportedly pushing the celebration, it was indicated that the original inspiration came from England where it may be noted that numerous Paul Robeson Committees have been established for some time. State Department is currently attempting to impress Indian officials with the factual background of Robeson and his anti-American and pro-Soviet sympathies. State is attempting to impress upon Indian officials that the celebration in question would undoubtedly be interpreted as communist inspired, anti-American and as evidence that India was going communist. This letter classified "Confidential" inasmuch as the information contained herein concerning the comments of Benjamin Davis was obtained through a confidential source close to Davis. The disclosure of the source could seriously hamper Bureau coverage of Communist Party activities at the national level which would in turn be prejudicial to the national defense.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rachner
2 yellows
Orig. & 2 to [redacted] (c)

[redacted] (c)
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

March 28, 1958

RE: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON

Information has been received indicating that captioned individual planned to travel to the West Indies on April 15, 1958, for a stay of one or two weeks. It was indicated that she would make the trip with a group from the United Nations.

It may be noted that Eslanda Cordozo Robeson is the wife of Paul Leroy Robeson, who has been the subject of previous communications furnished to you.

There follows additional information relating to the activities of captioned individual:

As of October, 1957, Eslanda Robeson was an accredited correspondent to the United Nations at New York, New York, for the publication "New World Review," 23 West 26th Street, New York, New York. The October, 1957, issue of this publication listed Eslanda Robeson as "Editorial Consultant on Negro and Colonial Questions and United Nations Correspondent." It may be noted that the "New World Review" has been cited by a United States Congressional Committee as "an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda."

Eslanda Robeson has long been reported active in the affairs of the Communist Party (CP) and communist front organizations in the United States. She was identified as a CP member in the 1940's and possibly as late as 1954. She has continued to associate with known CP members and has continued to support numerous communist front organizations in the United States. In 1954, she was chairman of the Executive Board of the Council on African Affairs and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. She reportedly continued her activities in the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship in a leadership capacity through at least late 1957. It may be noted that the Council on African Affairs and the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship have been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

1 - [redacted] (For information)

NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE TWO.

BCR:aym

(10)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAR 31 1958

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RSC/ML
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

60 APR 8 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum for [REDACTED] b1

In addition, Eslanda Robeson has frequently lectured before communist front organizations and has written numerous articles for communist publications. These lectures and articles tend to evidence her procommunist and pro-Soviet sympathies. She has also been reported to have been in contact with Soviet and satellite establishments and officials in the United States on frequent occasions up to the present time.

It would be appreciated if you would make available any pertinent information coming to your attention concerning the activities of Eslanda Robeson in the event she visits British possessions in the West Indies.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject in Security Index. Her activities are set out above. Extensive information concerning Paul Robeson, subject's husband, has previously been furnished to [REDACTED] State, Central Intelligence Agency, San Juan, and Legal Attache, Havana, advised of subject's proposed travel by separate communication. New York Office has likewise been advised to remain alert for information which might indicate that subject may violate her United Nations credentials through possible conduct of CP affairs and contacts in the West Indies, it being noted that State Department would be interested in such information as a means of denying subject further accreditation to the United Nations. This memorandum classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information concerning the CP and communist front organizations furnished in many instances by currently active Bureau informants. The disclosure of this information could possibly jeopardize these informants and seriously hamper future coverage of CP and related activities. This could be injurious to national defense.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of the Navy, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-468

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 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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FBI

Date: 4/1/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Transmit the following in AIRTEL

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-56680)

SUBJECT: ESLANDA CORDOZO ROBESON, was.
SM-C

References made to NYlet dated 3/18/58. Enclosed herewith are the original and four copies of a letterhead memorandum relating to information received on 3/30/58, from [REDACTED] c

Informant advised that on 3/30/58, ESLANDA ROBESON stated she has secured her ticket to leave NY on 4/16/58, for a period of two weeks. She stated she desires to return to NY by the 9th of May, 1958, on which date PAUL ROBESON, Sr., is to give a concert. In connection with this ESLANDA ROBESON stated PAUL ROBESON, Sr., would return to NY on Tuesday April 1, 1958.

The above is believed to relate to subject's contemplated trip to the West Indies with a United Nations Group as previously furnished by [REDACTED] c on 3/15/58, and was contained in re NYlet.

ENCLOSURE On 4/1/58, [REDACTED] at NYC, advised that on approximately 4/15/58, the United Nations is sponsoring reduced rate fares for travel to Trinidad, British

3-Bureau (100-12304) (Encls. 5) (RM)
1-New York (100-25857) (PAUL ROBESON)
1-New York (100-56680)
BEM:rav
(6)

AGENCY
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW.
HOW FORW.
BY

APR 2 1958

Approved: _____

Sent _____

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

95

FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: _____

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-56680

West Indies in connection with the celebration of the freedom of the British West Indies. He expressed the belief that ESLANDA ROBESON is traveling to Trinidad in her capacity as a correspondent for "New World Review" a publication for which she is editorial consultant on Negro and colonial questions and correspondent to the United Nations.

Any additional information relative to subject's trip to the West Indies will be promptly furnished the Bureau.

POWERS

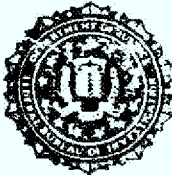
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

76



**United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New York, New York—
April 1, 1958**

**Re: Eslanda Cordozo Robeson,
Security Matter-C**

In March, 1958, an informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that on March 15, 1958, Eslanda Robeson stated she was planning to travel to the West Indies on April 15, 1958, for a stay of one or two weeks. She stated she would make this trip with a United Nations Group. Informant further advised that on March 30, 1958, Eslanda Robeson stated she had secured her ticket and would leave New York on April 16, 1958, and plan to return to New York by May 9, 1958.

On April 1, 1958, an informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that on approximately April 15, 1958, the United Nations is sponsoring reduced rate fares for travel to Trinidad in the British West Indies, in connection with a celebration to be held there commemorating the freedom of the British West Indies. This informant expressed the belief that subject is traveling to Trinidad in her capacity as a correspondent for the publication "New World Review" for which she is editorial consultant on Negro and colonial questions and correspondent to the United Nations.

The New World Review has been cited as an organization specializing in pro Soviet propaganda. It was formerly known as Soviet Russia Today (Internal Security Sub Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans S. DOC 117, April 23, 1956, page 76.)

This memorandum is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF
DATE

DECLASSIFIED BY 2650 YLR

MAY 23 1977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS
DATE 1/2/81

SP-5 RSC/p

CARBON COPY

FBI

Date: 4/3/58

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REGISTERED MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12485)(100-)

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (100-12485)(100-)

RE: CP, USA
 MARYLAND - D. C. DISTRICT
 BALTIMORE DIVISION
 NEGRO QUESTION
PAUL ROBESON
 IS - C
 CINAL

61 [REDACTED]
 b7D [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] said that while the Party could not openly speak for ROBESON, ways and means would have to be found to influence Negro preachers and leading Negro professional people in the Baltimore area to have ROBESON come to Baltimore.

- ⑥ - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
 2 - New York (REGIS. MAIL)
 2 - Washington Field (REGIS. MAIL)
 4 - Baltimore
 100-12485
 100-
 100-19876 (CINAL) b1

RCN:jmc
 (14)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/AMC
 REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
 DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

100-12304 - ✓
 NOT RECORDED
 100 APR 10 1958

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 OTHERWISE

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

61 APR 14 1958
 Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Per _____

98

CONFIDENTIAL

A I R T E L

BA 100-12485; BA 100-

██████████ stated that ROBESON had recently visited the West Coast, made speeches and sung. While on the West Coast ROBESON had appeared at a number of churches and the money taken up had been divided, half for ROBESON and half for the churches.

██████████ said that ROBESON had recently been invited to Chicago to celebrate his 60th birthday, and commented that Chicago had done a tremendous job on the ROBESON book.

67D

F B I

Date: 4/4/58

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL REC
(Type in plain text or code)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (100-15889)

SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON, Was.; Is - C.

SIGNAL. [REDACTED]

PAUL ROBESON is to be in a concert with a choir on 4/25/58 at the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit, at 7:30 p.m. [REDACTED]

Rev. CHARLES A. HILL is the pastor of the Hartford Avenue church, and Reverend HILL in the past has been cooperative with CP front groups.

- (3) - Bureau (RM)
 1 - New York (100-25857) (RM)
 4 - Detroit (100-15889)
 (100-25127) (SIGNAL)
 (100-4437) [REDACTED]

RE: JLN
 (3)

CP work

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/cw
 REASON-FROM II, 1-2.4.2
 DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

REC-9

EX-108

APR 8 1958

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 OTHERWISE

Approved: KEC Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11 M Per _____~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F B I

Date: 4/4/58

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Clayton	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS - C

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF _____
DATE 11-17-82

Copy of instant communication is being directed to the
Chicago Division inasmuch as subject anticipates travel to
that division. (u)

- 3 - Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
1 - Chicago (Info) (RM)
1 - New York (65-14825 - Sub B)
1 - New York (100-25857)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RSG/CMU
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2.5
DATE OF REVIEW 11/21/91

JGD:cls
(7)

Classified by 2650 YKR
Exempt from GDS, Category 243
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAY 23 1977

REC-91

Sent

M

Per

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

64 APR 14 1958

APR 8 1958

CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHERWISE

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in CONFIDENTIAL
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of this information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

POWERS

- 2 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

10

FBI

Date: 4/1/58

Transmit the following in _____

PLAIN TEXT

REC-93

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISESUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON
IS - C*Records
file in
100-49952*Enclosed herewith are the original and four
copies of a letterhead memorandum relating to information
received on 3/30/58 from [REDACTED] b1

Informant advised that on 3/30/58 ESLANDA ROBESON,
subject's wife, commented on a resolution passed by
Actors Equity the previous Friday (3/21/58), which endorsed
a resolution of the British Actors Equity that PAUL
ROBESON be granted a tentative passport. ESLANDA ROBESON
expressed surprise at this action because since actor,
RALPH BELLAMY, had assumed the leadership of Actors Equity,
all "of our people" have been out and a reactionary group
had taken over.

ESLANDA stated that OSSIE DAVIS had introduced the
resolution and despite the fact that the Equity President,
BELLAMY, spoke against it, the resolution was carried
by approximately 110 votes to 75. ESLANDA continued
that OSSIE DAVIS refers to this effort as his birthday
contribution to PAUL ROBESON, SR.

Informant further advised that on this same date

- 3 - Bureau (100-12304) (Encs. 5) (RM)
1 - NY 100-56680 (ESLANDA ROBESON) (12-15)
1 - NY 100-95550 [REDACTED] (12-15)
1 - NY 100-113220 [REDACTED]
1 - NY 100-86627 (ACTORS EQUITY ASSOCIATION) (7-2)
1 - NY 100-25857 (12-15)
BFM:mfw (#12-15)

(9)

AGENCY

TO: REC'D

TE FORM

10-10-58

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

CLASS. & EXT. M

Per

PEASON-100-12304-472

DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

55 APR 17 1958

APR 2 1958

11/2/87
SP-5 RSC/CLM
2

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

NY 100-25857

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAUL ROBESON, JR., subject's son, stated that OSSIE DAVIS had informed ESLANDA ROBESON of the action of Actors Equity in passing a resolution supporting the right of PAUL ROBESON to a limited passport even though actor RALPH BELLAMY opposed it. ROBESON, JR. stated that this means that Actors Equity will go on record with an official statement supporting the subject's right to a limited passport to travel to England for a Shakespearean role this summer (1958).

It is to be noted that [REDACTED] b7c

The following informants are utilized in enclosed letterhead memorandum:

T-1
T-2

T-3
T-4
T-5

[REDACTED] (c) b

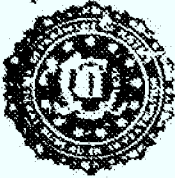
Any additional information concerning ROBESON's passport case as maybe received from [REDACTED] and other sources will be promptly furnished to the Bureau.

POWERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 2 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

100-25857

New York, New York
April 1, 1958

Re: Paul Le Roy Robeson
Internal Security - C

In March, 1958, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that on March 30, 1958, Eslanda Robeson, subject's wife, stated that a resolution had been passed by Actors Equity on March 21, 1958, which endorsed a resolution of the British Actors Equity that Paul Robeson be granted a tentative passport. Eslanda Robeson expressed surprise at the Equity action because subsequent to the assumption of its leadership by actor Ralph Bellamy, a reactionary group had taken over the organization. b7D

Eslanda continued that Ossie Davis had introduced the resolution and despite the opposition of Equity President Bellamy, the resolution was carried by approximately 110 votes to 75. She commented that Ossie Davis refers to his action relative to this resolution as his birthday contribution to Paul Robeson.

[REDACTED] advised that on March 30, 1958, Paul Robeson, Jr., subject's son, stated that Ossie Davis had informed Eslanda Robeson of the action of Actors Equity in passing a resolution supporting the right of Paul Robeson to a limited passport even though Ralph Bellamy opposed it. Robeson, Jr. stated that this means that Actors Equity will go on record with an official statement supporting Robeson's right to a limited passport to travel to England for a Shakespearean role this summer.

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DATE 1/21/81 BY SP5 RAG/CM MAY 23 1977

AGENCY
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW.
HOW FORW.
BY

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889 AUG 29 1973

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

On March 31, 1958, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Eslanda Robeson is an accredited correspondent to the United Nations, New York City, for the publication, "New World Review," which accreditation is valid until January 31, 1959. b7D

The "New World Review" has been cited as an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda. It was formerly known as "Soviet Russia Today." (Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary, Handbook for Americans, S. Doc. 117, April 23, 1956, page 76.)

On October 10, 1955, the records of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] contained the following regarding [REDACTED]

On April 29, 1953, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished information which reflected that [REDACTED] b7C b7D

The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast Communist newspaper which suspended publication in January, 1958. "The Worker" is an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper.

On July 20, 1954, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that [REDACTED]

The APC has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. ←

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The "Daily Worker," issue of January 21, 1953, page 7, column 3, contained an article entitled, "U.S. Writers Urge Clemency," which reflected that one Ossie Davis was among writers urging clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were convicted in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on March 29, 1951, for conspiracy to commit espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. The Rosenbergs were sentenced to death on April 5, 1951. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were legally executed at Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, on June 19, 1953.

In October, 1957, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that at that time Paul Robeson, Jr. was Educational Director of the Harlem Region of the Communist Party. 67D

This memorandum has been loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 4/9/58

FROM : SAC, WFO (100-19021)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON
SM-C
(OO: NY)

On 3/26, 27, 31/58, Mr. ROBERT D. JOHNSON, Passport Office, Dept. of State, made available to SA [REDACTED] copies of several communications received by the Dept. of State from the Dept. of State offices abroad. These copies are for the use of the FBI, and are being forwarded with this letter. (u)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S)

[REDACTED]

Refer
to
Dept
of
State
for
Direct
Response
to
you

[REDACTED]

2-Bureau (Encls. 4)
2-New York (100-25857) (RM)
1-WFO
HHK:jav
(5)

REC-82

100-12304-473

2 APR 10 1958

SUBV CONTROL

65 APR 15 1958

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED ON 11/2/81 BY SP-5 RSC/ECM

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of State, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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FBI/DOJ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WFO 100-19021

The information taken from these communications does not represent all of the information contained therein inasmuch as some of the information did not seem pertinent for this letter being submitted to the Bureau and NY. RUC. (4)

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

110

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET8

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of State, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-473 (enclosure)

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

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Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):



For your information: _____



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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4-7-58

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.



Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):



For your information: _____



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FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-474

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)

DATE: 4/11/58

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
IS-CAPPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF
DATE

Re NY airtel 4/7/58.

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

The Chicago Division is aware of subject's anticipated travel to that division. (u)

Information from this source, if used in a report, must be most carefully paraphrased in order to protect the source. Under no circumstances should the subject or any unauthorized individual become aware we have knowledge of the above information. (u)

Submitted for information. (u)

Classified by 2450 YHA
Exempt from GDS, Category 2 & 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite
MAY 23 1977

REC-11

100-12304-472

2-Bureau (100-12304) (RM)
1-New York 65-14825 Sub B
1-New York 100-25857ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISEJGD:1bj
(4)~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

66 APR 17 1958

APR 14 1958
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RST/CLL
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

SUBV. CONTROL

FBI

Date: 4/10/58

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-25857)
 SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON
 IS-C

Enclosed herewith is an original and four copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth information received from [REDACTED]

On 4/9/58, [REDACTED] advised that on that date an individual possibly having the name of FULLER was in contact with MARILYN ROBESON, subject's daughter-in-law. This person desired to know if the subject would be available for a paid concert engagement at Carnegie Hall on 4/26/58. This person was informed by MARILYN ROBESON that he should make contact with subject's wife ESLANDA ROBESON, as the subject was then in Chicago, but was expected to return to NY in about one week. In addition MARILYN ROBESON stated she thought the subject would be out of the country at that time, 4/26/58.

Any additional information indicating that the subject intends to leave the US in the near future will be promptly furnished the Bureau.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/CLM
 REASON-FORM II, 1-2.4.2 2 POWERS
 DATE OF REVIEW _____

- (3) - Bureau
 1 - New York (100-56680) (ESLANDA ROBESON)
 1 - New York (100-107582) [REDACTED]
 1 - New York (100-25857) [REDACTED]

BFM:pms
 (7)

5 ENCLOSURE

REC-78

17 APR 15 1958

Approved: *Eg*

Special Agent in Charge

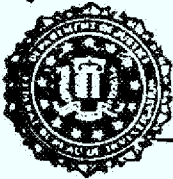
Sent

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBV. CONTROL

53 APR 18 1958

115



**United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
New York, New York**

April 10, 1958

Re: Paul Le Roy Robeson
Internal Security-C

An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that on April 9, 1958, a member of captioned subject's family commented that she thought the subject would be out of the country on or about April 26, 1958.

This is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

0.25 to nyc 4/14/58
classify "Conf"
PR

RAB (0-6)
AGENCY State, CIA
REQ. REC'D 4-14-58
DATE FORW. 4-14-58
HOW FORW. EP
BY BR/SC

DECLASSIFIED BY 2650 JK
MAY 23 1977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/2/81 BY SP-5 RAC/MLM

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF 4-14-58
DATE 4-14-58

ENCLOSURE
100-12304-476

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Department of State, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-477

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 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
 X FOR THIS PAGE X
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters File 100-12304 Not Recorded dated
4-16-58

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.



Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):



For your information: _____



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters File 100-12304 - Not Recorded dated
4-18-56

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. Rachner
1 - Liaison

100-12304

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: April 23, 1958

To: Mr. E. Toalin Bailey
Director
Office of Security
Department of State
515 22nd Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: PAUL LEROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

The above, which may pertain to the Robeson passport matter, is being submitted for your information. (u)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Subject is key figure of New York Office. He is noted Negro concert singer who has long supported the CP and related front groups and has likewise been outspoken in praise of the Soviet Union. Robeson has been denied passport since 1950 and has again brought action in the courts to obtain a passport. In view of recent publicity in connection with Robeson's concert appearances, his book which was recently published, and his efforts to obtain passport, the above matter which appears to pertain to Robeson's passport case is being referred to State Department for its consideration. Classified "Confidential" inasmuch as it contains information obtained by an informant. The unauthorized disclosure of the information, knowledge of which is possibly limited to informant and a few others, could possibly jeopardize informant's status. In this regard, it appears State may pursue matter in United Nations.

11/2/61
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RST/UM
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 Z
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91
Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

BCH:aym
(5)

APR 30 1958

BY COURIER SVC
3 4 APR 2 4
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: April 24, 1958

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (100-22692) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: PAUL ROBESON, SR.
SECURITY MATTER - CEXTREME CARE SHOULD BE USED IN HANDLING THE ENCLOSED
MATERIAL IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF [REDACTED] b7DOne photostatic copy of this title page is
transmitted herewith to the Bureau and the New York Office.
The Chicago copy is located in Chicago file 100-22692-1A9. (4)

- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED) (Encl. 1)
- 1 - New York (REGISTERED) (Encl. 1)
- 1 - 100-25857 (PAUL ROBESON, SR.)
- 2 - Chicago [REDACTED] b1

JEK/jcn
(5)APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED]
DATE 5-27-7274
ENCLOSUREClassified by 2650 YEP
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
MAY 23 1977CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSC/CTM
REASON-FRUM CI, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

REC-76

12 MAY 29 1958

62 MAY 1 1958

CONFIDENTIAL

SUB CONTROL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE (1) TO BUREAU
FROM SAC, CHICAGO (100-2269)
Re: PAUL ROBESON, SR.
SM-C

[REDACTED]

c b1

1/2/81
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/clm
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ENCLOSED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-12304-479

ENCLOSURE

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

FBI Headquarters file 100-12304-479 (Enclosure)

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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State

WPC

PPT/LS 4/16

Chicago 12, Illinois

PUBLIC SERVICES DIV.
PCB

April 14, 1958

1958 APR 21 AM 10 15
Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
Washington D. C.
RECEIVED

Dear Mr. President,

I am just a poor Negro house-
wife & I'm deeply concerned
over the blight of Mr. Paul
Robeson. However, I'm sure
you will never see this letter
but I have to get this off
my chest anyway.

He, Mr. Robeson is one of the
greatest Negroes America has
ever produced & should
not be treated as he is.

IPC G 4-30-58
by 1-25 for info.
70 MAY 6 1958
F-14

REC-11

100-12304-480

NOT RECORDED

12

simply because he is a fighter
for Negro rights in America.

Doesn't Sec. Dulles & other
white top brass have the
right to choose their friends
from ~~any~~ foreign countries
whatever they are or where
they come from?

So why not give Mr. Robinson
his passport to wherever he
chooses to go & let him be free
if not the rest of us (Negroes)?
If one of us can't speak for
freedom of Negroes - what then?

Sincerely

P.S. As quiet as it is kept perhaps
you are not aware of it

b7c

but we love him and
resent the treatment the
U.S. give him.

PASSPORT OFFICE

APR 23 1958

LEGAL DIVISION

126

Paul Robeson

April 29-58

Mr. John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State
Dear Sir:

Mr. Paul Robeson has
applied for a passport to go
abroad for the purpose of
performing a singing
engagement. Feeling that
he would do great honor to
our country, I respectfully
urge you to grant him
this privilege.

Respectfully yours

[Redacted signature]

Chicago Ill

IPC G 4 0-25 for
info 4-30-58
MCE-mm

S-BR

Bernard Bleintzk
541 Roscoe St.
Chicago, Ill

REC-11

100-12304-481

NOT RECORDED

14 MAY 1 1958

EX-101

70 MAY 6 1958

P-14

127

AS

Paul Robeson

State

April 14 1958
RECEIVED REFERRED

Mr. D. W. Eisenhower
President
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE

Dear Sir; - *small letters*

The Assistant to the President
Mr. Paul Robeson has
applied for a passport to
go abroad for the purpose
of performing a singing
engagement. Feeling that
he would do great honor
to our country, I respectfully
urge you to grant him
the privilege

Respectfully yours

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

1 pc Cy to 0.25
4-30-58 for info.
MEE - mm

Chicago, Ill.

Chicago, Ill.

SBR

70 MAY 6 1958

REC-11
EX-101

100-12304-482
NOT RECORDED
14 MAY 1 1958

121

B4

Paul Robeson

April 10, 1958

A citizens appeal to
the very heart of USA

Full citizenship
and human rights to
a great American -
Paul Robeson... his
right to travel and a
passport is an inalienable
right... I urge it

Chicago 13, Ill.

IPC C 4-30-58
by [redacted] for info
MCE-mm

5-8P

b7c 2

REC-11 100-12304-483

NOT RECORDED

14 MAY 1 1958

70 MAY 6 1958

Chicago 13, Ill.

EX-101

101

Paul Robeson

4/10/58....
Dear Sir

This is to urge
you to grant Paul
Robeson his passport
so that he may
travel abroad to
fulfill his ~~many~~
engagements for
singing throught
the world.

Political disagreement
should not be a
reason for his house
arrest. Yours truly

IPC C 4-30-58 by
0-25-1 for info.
MCE - mi

U.S.A.

REC-11

EX-101

100-12304-484
NOT RECORDED
14 MAY 1 1958

70 MAY 6

1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-12304)
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (100-22692)
SUBJECT: PAUL LE ROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

4/28/58

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE

Re Chicago airtel dated April 15, 1958 entitled,
"CHICAGO COUNCIL OF AMERICAN SOVIET FRIENDSHIP" which
concluded that letterhead memoranda would be submitted.

The following informants, all of whom have furnished
reliable information in the past, were utilized in the
attached letterhead memorandum:

- 2- Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)(Encls. 7)
1- New York (REGISTERED MAIL)(Encl. 1)
100-25957 (PAUL ROBESON)
6- Chicago

- 1- [REDACTED]
1- [REDACTED]
1- [REDACTED]
1- [REDACTED]
1- 100-32915

RPH/njb
(9)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-5 RSG/LIM
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/91

5/7/58
NOT NECESSARY TO
DISSEMINATE RE
ROBESON - PRIOR TO ANY
DISSIM REFERENCE TO CHGO
COMMENT PP 2-4

ENCLOSURE

Classified by 2650 YLR
Exempt from GDS, Category
Date of Declassification Indefinite

MAY 1 1958

67 MAY 9 1958

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBV CONTROL

Downing
K. [REDACTED]
M. [REDACTED]
W. [REDACTED]
D. [REDACTED]

131

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CG 100-22692

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C)

b1
(C)

[REDACTED] (concealed at her request)
furnished the membership list of the National Lawyers Guild
on June 20, 1956 to SA [REDACTED] which included the
name DE FRANTZ WILLIAMS. (u)

b7c / b7

b7c

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(C)

b1

The attached letterhead memorandum was classified
confidential since it contains information from sources, the
unauthorized disclosure of which would be detrimental to the
national security. (u)

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1/28

CG 100-22692

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

b1

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

In view of the extremely valuable information being furnished by these two informants, it is recommended that this memorandum not be disseminated since their CP status could be adversely affected.

(u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

132

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

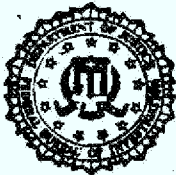
CG 100-22692

However, if the Bureau feels that dissemination must be made, it is recommended that it be disseminated at the highest possible level and that the recipient be fully briefed on all of the attendant ramifications. (4)

- 4 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

134



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

CONFIDENTIAL

11/2/87
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 RSC/UM Chicago, Illinois
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2 April 28, 1958
DATE OF REVIEW 11/2/97

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

PAUL LE ROY ROBESON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

REFER TO NOTE ON
COVER PRIOR TO
CONSIDERING
DISSEM

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

(c)

COPIES DESTROYED

EST AUG 29 1973

100-12304-485

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAUL LE ROY ROBESON

100 DE [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

With respect to WALL, the February 7, 1958 edition of the "Chicago Tribune" contains an article on page 4, column 2, reflecting that in November, 1954 WALL was found guilty by a jury in Federal District Court of selling a Post Office Department promotion for \$400 while employed as secretary to DAWSON. He was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to nine months. His case was on appeal until 1956 at which time he entered prison. He served one half of his sentence and was paroled. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAUL LE ROY ROBESON

MEMO

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

With respect to the individuals and organizations mentioned in this memorandum, the following characterizations are listed. The characterization for the Chicago Council of American Soviet Friendship is attached. (u)

PAUL ROBESON

The July 15, 1949 edition of the "Washington Times Herald", Washington, D. C. newspaper, carried an article entitled, "Probers Told Robeson is Veteran Red". This article reflects that MANNING JOHNSON, an ex-CP leader, told a Committee of Congress on July 14, 1949 that PAUL ROBESON has been a member of the CP for many years. JOHNSON said he has met ROBESON frequently at CP headquarters in New York where ROBESON held secret meetings with EARL BROWDER, WILLIAM Z. POSTER, JACK STACHEL, and J. PETERS, all leading Communists. (u)

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAUL LE ROY ROBESON

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(c)

b7c

[REDACTED]

(c)

[REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

(c)

The CP, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order #10450. (u)

This memorandum is the property of the FBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CHICAGO COUNCIL OF AMERICAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP (CCASF)

A source advised on May 7, 1957, that the CCASF since its inception in Chicago in the 1940's has never failed to propagandize for Russia and the Russian way of life. This source further advised that the CCASF has been using speakers who were known to the source as members of the Communist Party since the first meetings in the 1940's. The source advised that the program of the CCASF has always included speakers, movies, and pamphlets praising every aspect of Russia including its foreign policy and has been extremely critical of the United States domestic and foreign policies. (u)

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (u)

- 5 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~